

Thank You



L.L.Bean thanks the Take Pride in America® volunteers for working to improve and preserve our nation's public lands. When you create a record of service at www.takepride.info, you will be eligible for \$10 off your next online purchase at llbean.com.

L.L.Bean
FREEPORT, MAINE
SINCE 1912

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**TAKE PRIDE®
IN AMERICA** 
It's Your Land, Lend A Hand



VOLUNTEER GUIDE

INSIDE: Welcome, Clint Eastwood, Conservation, Volunteer Resources, Awards and More!

TAKE PRIDE[®] IN AMERICA

It's Your Land, Lend A Hand

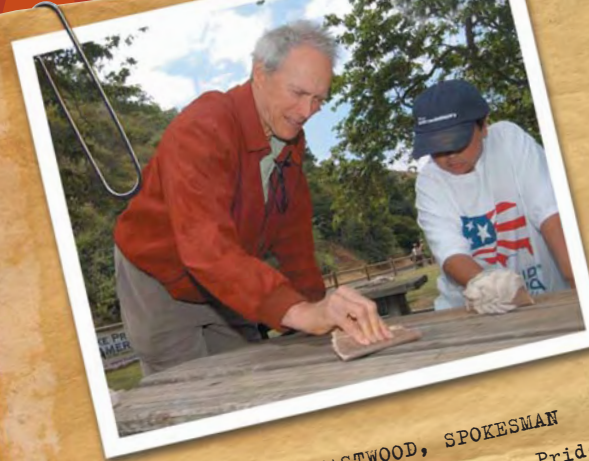
Take Pride in America[®] is the public lands branch of the USA Freedom Corps reinstituted at the U.S. Department of the Interior by Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton in the spring of 2003. The program is a national partnership that aims to seek, support and recognize volunteers who work to improve our public parks, forests, grasslands, reservoirs, wildlife refuges, cultural and historic sites, local playgrounds, and other recreation areas. With over 100 Charter Partners, Take Pride involves Federal, State, and local governments, conservation, youth and recreation groups, and top national corporations and organizations.

Take Pride in America[®] calls on all Americans to lend a hand. Working together, we can protect and enhance the special legacy all Americans share – our public lands that cover more than one in every three acres across the Nation.

This Volunteer Guide is an expression of appreciation to you for your service to the Nation and the environment. It offers information about exciting volunteer opportunities and about programs offering recognition for your service.

Thank you for your contribution to America's public lands and waters.

If you would like to contact the Take Pride in America[®] office, please call (202) 208-5848 or email TakePride@ios.doi.gov.



A NOTE FROM CLINT EASTWOOD, SPOKESMAN

When I was the spokesman for Take Pride in America nearly twenty years ago, I said "Bad guys abuse public lands; good guys take care of it." Now I'm calling on a new generation of volunteers.

Our tax dollars support trails, picnic sites, and recreation areas. With volunteers to lend a hand, we can do even more. I've visited a lot of these areas, and I know people are enthusiastic to help. Take Pride wants to make the most of that enthusiasm.

Everyone needs to take responsibility for all of our public lands – Federal, State, and local. This is a call to action. I'm telling you, "It's Your Land, Lend a Hand!" Take pride in America.

Clint

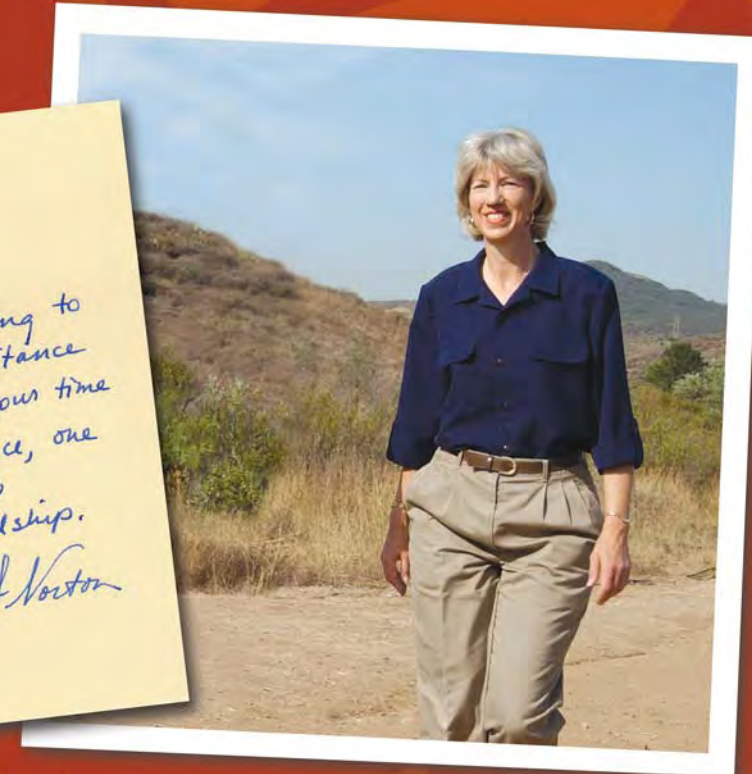
This Guide has been published at no cost to taxpayers and has been donated to the Take Pride in America[®] program in accordance with Federal law.



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

Thank you!
Every American can do something to protect + enhance our natural inheritance of scenic landscapes. By donating your time + labor, you are making a difference, one acre at a time. Thanks for your commitment to volunteer stewardship.

Gale A. Norton



Nothing in this Guide should be taken to imply endorsement of products, services or activities of the sponsors of this publication or any member of the Take Pride in America[®] Partners Council by the U.S. Department of the Interior or any Federal agency.



Take me fishing.
Because I get the giggles
when the boat bounces.

Take me fishing.
You can think about
work later.

Take me fishing.
Because my wedding will
be sooner than you think.

Water works wonders.
RECREATIONAL BOATING AND
FISHING FOUNDATION

*To all the Take Pride In America® volunteers, thank you for your time, your commitment, and your passion.
Your efforts make it easier for American families to reconnect while enjoying our precious waters.*

Rediscover the joy of boating and fishing at
www.WaterWorksWonders.org



THIS LAND IS OUR LAND!

Thank you for your volunteer efforts! The American public owns over a third of the U.S. as public lands consisting of National and State parks, mountains, rivers, valleys, lakes, shorelines, wildlife refuges, forests, recreation areas, cultural and historic resources, and local playgrounds. As owners, we are responsible for their care and preservation. These lands are vital, living ecosystems that need to be understood, cared for, and respected. It is important for all Americans to enjoy their public lands. It is equally important for every American to take the time and make the effort to do something to protect and enhance these resources. Volunteering can be a great

opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and enjoy a great health benefit at the same time. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, volunteering for environmental issues on a regular basis may help you achieve and maintain your health goals. By volunteering for environmental projects you may be more likely to achieve your recommended daily levels of physical activity.

We are more than the owners of America's vast and scenic landscapes; we are the stewards of their future. By enjoying the outdoors responsibly and by lending a hand in their upkeep and preservation, you are ensuring that our national treasures will be preserved for countless generations. Whether in your local community or on our national public lands, thank you for lending a hand.

LOG YOUR VOLUNTEER HOURS AT WWW.TAKEPRIDE.INFO

THE MANY FACES OF VOLUNTEERING!



OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

To help you find your ideal experience, Take Pride in America® has assembled a bank of volunteer resources. Indoors, outdoors, working with people, or wildlife—it's all available. Many projects last from one day to a couple of weeks. Regardless of your profession, skills, schedule, special needs, race, age, or gender, Take Pride in America® can help find a volunteer opportunity for you.

One hour of volunteer work per week can make a significant difference in your community. Whether the volunteer commitment is daily, weekly, monthly, or year round, the opportunities abound and the benefits are immeasurable.

"BLM volunteers should take heed: if the agency ever finds out how much fun we have at this work, they just might ask us to pay them for the privilege!"

— John Gerrish
Tularosa, NM



WHETHER YOUR FAVORITE TOOL IS A KEYBOARD OR A SHOVEL, WE'VE GOT SOMETHING FOR YOU.

CAMPGROUND HOST // VISITOR-CENTER HOST // RESEARCHER // TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE // TRAIL CLEAN-UP // LITTER CLEAN-UP // PHOTOGRAPHER // NEWSLETTER EDITOR // WEBMASTER // GUIDE // LITTER REMOVAL // SIGN PRODUCTION // EXHIBIT DESIGN AND PRODUCTION // PAINTING // EXOTIC WEED REMOVAL // BIRD AND WILDLIFE OBSERVATION // WILDLIFE HABITAT RESTORATION // VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR // RE-ENACTMENTS AND HISTORICAL DRAMAS // TRAILHEAD HOST // GRANT WRITER // COSTUME DESIGN // RECEPTIONIST // YOUTH-ACTIVITIES VOLUNTEER // EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN // SEARCH-AND-RESCUE // SAFETY PATROL // SPECIAL-EVENTS COORDINATOR // BURNED AREA REVEGETATION // EROSION CONTROL // LIAISON TO LOCAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS // SHORELINE CLEAN-UP // PLANTING AND MAINTAINING GARDENS OR TREES // FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Oh, what wonders you'll see.

Come home to America. Where majestic parks, charming resorts, and overnight tours on heartland rivers tell a story. Of dreams and hope and endless possibilities. And of the magic that has captivated Americans for generations. It's a big country. We'll help you discover it one wonder at a time. Let the journey begin by exploring www.delawarenorth.com.



The Delta Queen Steamboat Company
800-550-3012



Harrison Hot Springs Resort & Spa
800-663-2266



Sequoia National Park
888-252-5757



Yosemite National Park
559-252-4848



Deer Creek Resort & Conference Center
877-678-3337



Asilomar Conference Grounds
831-642-4242



Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex
321-449-4444



Tenaya Lodge
800-635-5807



Emory Melton Inn & Conference Center
417-847-2330



A Global Leader
in Hospitality and Food Service

VOLUNTEER RESOURCES

For Federal agency volunteer opportunities, go to:

Volunteer.Gov
www.volunteer.gov/gov

Bureau of Land Management
www.blm.gov/volunteer

Bureau of Reclamation
www.usbr.gov

Fish and Wildlife Service
<http://volunteers.fws.gov>

Forest Service
www.fs.fed.us

National Park Service
www.nps.gov/volunteer

Recreation.Gov
www.recreation.gov

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
www.orn.usace.army.mil/volunteer

USA Freedom Corps
www.usafreedomcorps.gov

The following is a sampling of groups, organizations, and companies that help keep America's public lands beautiful. Each has partnered with Take Pride in America® to create a large network of interest-specific volunteer opportunities (for a complete list see: www.TakePride.gov).

American Canoe Association
www.acanet.org

American Forestry Association
www.americanforests.org

American Hiking Society
www.americanhiking.org

Backcountry Horsemen of America
www.backcountryhorse.com

Boy Scouts of America
www.scouting.org

Continental Divide Trail Alliance
www.cdtrail.org

Environmental Alliance for Senior Involvement – EASI
www.easi.org

Girl Scouts of America
www.girlscouts.org

Good Sam Club
www.goodsamclub.com

Keep America Beautiful
www.kab.org

Leave No Trace
www.lnt.org

National Arbor Day Foundation
www.arborday.org

National Audubon Society
www.audubon.org

National Association of Service and Conservation Corporations
www.nascc.org

National Environmental Education and Training Foundation
www.neetf.org

National Wildlife Federation
www.nwf.org

Pacific Crest Trail Association
www.pcta.org

Passport in Time
www.passportintime.com

Points of Light Foundation
www.pointsoflight.org

The Nature Conservancy
www.nature.org

The Student Conservation Association
www.thesca.org

Tread Lightly
www.treadlightly.org

Trout Unlimited
www.tu.org

Youth Service America
www.ysa.org

FIND MORE VOLUNTEER RESOURCES AT WWW.TAKEPRIDE.GOV



"Bass Pro Shops® is proud to sponsor the Take Pride in America program. The volunteers that make up this important support network deserve more than a "Thank You" from all of us in this great country. We are happy to announce that as part of our sponsorship, Bass Pro Shops will award gift certificates to volunteers who reach designated service plateaus. More information is available at www.takepride.info/basspro.

All of us at Bass Pro Shops extend a heartfelt "Thanks" to all of you who volunteer your time, energy, and talents, to maintain and enhance our public lands. The conservation of our natural resources is an important and vital initiative which every citizen benefits from.

*Remember, we all live downstream...
From your friends at Bass Pro Shops®*



BP31085

BECOME A FRIEND OF



THERE IS NO COST TO REGISTER, AND YOU WILL GET ALL OF THESE GREAT BENEFITS:



- A personalized Record of Service to log your volunteer hours – making you eligible for many volunteer rewards
- Volunteer Newsletter keeping you in touch with volunteer efforts around the country
- Special email alerts and invitations to volunteer on public lands near you
- A special Friends discount on Take Pride merchandise
- Special offers from members of the Take Pride in America® Sponsors



**GO TO WWW.TAKEPRIDE.INFO AND REGISTER NOW!
RECEIVE A FREE GIFT WHEN YOU REGISTER!**

ENHANCE YOUR VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Great experiences start with good planning. Here are some important tips to help you properly prepare for your next volunteering experience.

MAKE CONTACT // Once you've decided what you'd like to do, call the appropriate facility or organization to find out what volunteer opportunities are available. Advance planning or training may be required.

VISIT THE SITE // If possible (and especially with group projects), visit the work site to be sure it is suitable for your project. Meet with the site contact and go over issues like safety hazards, tools and materials, work standards, tour permits, health and safety clearances, group agreements, and parental approvals.

COME PREPARED // An easy way to make your experience more pleasant is to be comfortable while you work. Be sure to bring temperature- and weather-appropriate clothing and to pack a lunch and plenty of water unless you know they will be provided. Also: be sure to inquire about the need for sunscreen, insect repellent, hats, gloves, and any special equipment that the project may require. A good way to prepare: ask the site contact for suggestions on what to bring.

FOLLOW THE LEADER // It is important to abide by the standards and guidelines set out by the agency with which you are working. If you have questions, seek clarification before you begin the project.

BE THE LEADER // Consider enrolling in volunteer-leader training that will allow you to become a volunteer coordinator or project supervisor. Organizations are always looking for talented, enthusiastic leaders.

WORK WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS // Check with your local community, place of employment, and civic groups to find out if they have volunteer events in which you may have interest.

HAVE FUN // Most of all, remember that volunteering is a fun, fulfilling activity that allows you to enjoy the outdoors, meet new people, and put your talents to work preserving your public lands.

THANK YOU FROM THE TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA® PARTNERS COUNCIL!

The Take Pride in America® Partners Council is delighted to sponsor this Guide and the www.TakePride.info website in support of public lands volunteers! No taxpayer funds are being used in the publication of this Guide, in the design and operation of website, or in the operation of the Friends of Take Pride program, including maintaining records of your volunteer service on public lands. We are proud to join you in aiding America's special places.

THE TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA® CHARTER PARTNERS

From America Outdoors to The Walt Disney Company, over 100 clubs, organizations and corporations have come together as Charter Partners to lend their support for the Take Pride in America® program and our public lands.

Please direct inquiries about the Take Pride in America Volunteer Guide to:
Take Pride in America Partners Council / 1225 New York Avenue, NW Suite 450
Washington, DC 20005

Neither this Guide nor the Friends of Take Pride in America® website is produced, owned or operated by the Federal Government.

FEDERAL STEWARDS OF OUR PUBLIC LANDS & WATERS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) / FOREST SERVICE (USFS) is responsible for 191 million acres in 155 National Forests and 20 grasslands in 44 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Since 1891, the National Forests have provided renewable resources like water, forage, wildlife, wood, and recreation. The USFS partners with thousands of recreation businesses operating in the forests, including ski areas, marinas, campgrounds, outfitters, and guides. The USFS will celebrate its hundredth anniversary in 2005. Volunteers play an integral role in managing the National Forests, contributing over 4.3 million hours annually, valued in excess of \$40 million. WWW.FS.FED.US

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE (DOD) / ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (ACOE) is responsible for the stewardship of 11.7 million acres of land and water located at 463 water-resource projects in 43 states. Although the corps administers less than 2 percent of the Federal land estate, corps land accounts for almost 30 percent of the recreation visitation to Federal lands—more than 300 million visits annually. WWW.CORPSLAKES.US

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DOI) / BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) is responsible for managing 260 million acres of the nation's public lands (including fire management), waters and 700 million acres of subsurface mineral resources. These lands—largely located in the Western United States and Alaska—include grasslands, forests, high mountains, arctic tundra, and deserts. The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. WWW.BLM.GOV

DOI / BUREAU OF RECLAMATION (USBR) is responsible for managing, developing, and protecting water and related resources, in the interest of the American public, in

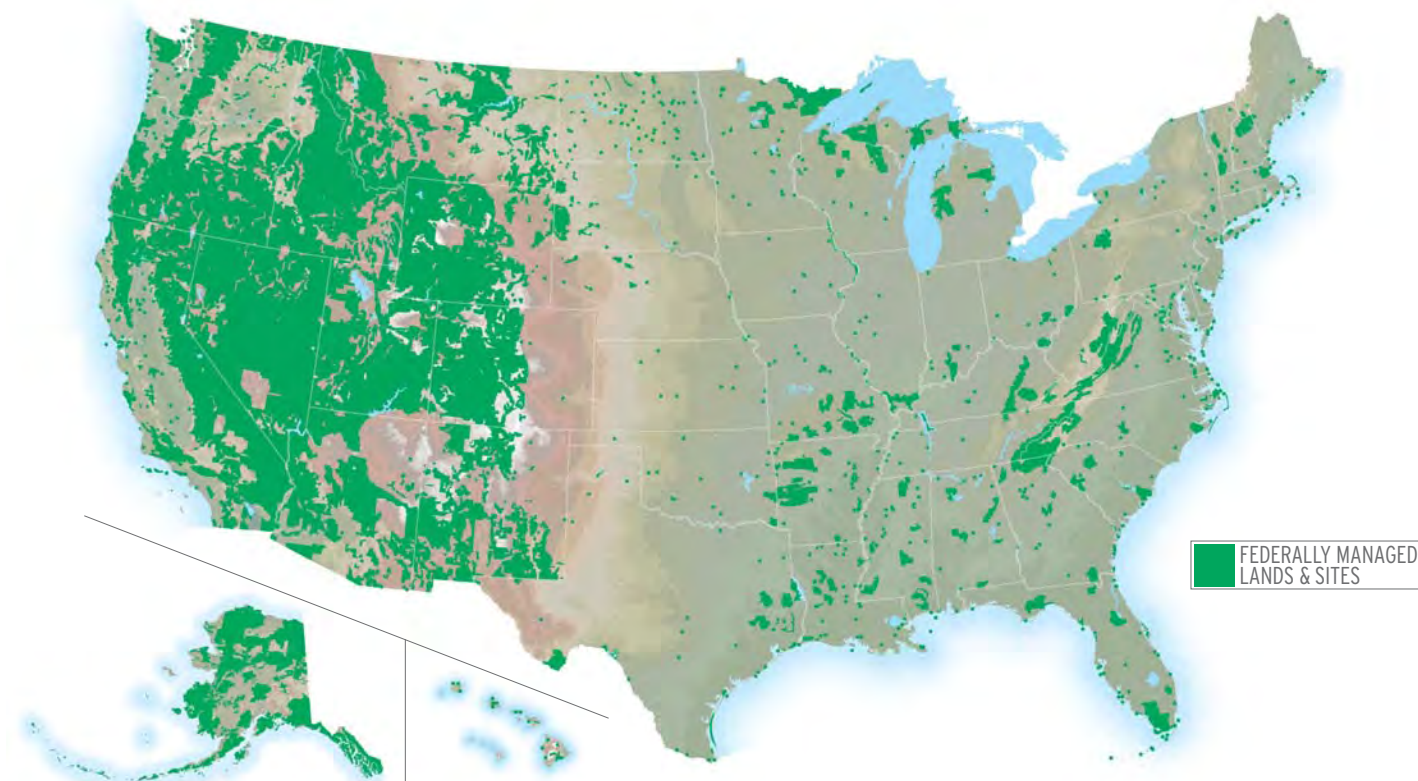
an environmentally and economically sound manner. The USBR was created in 1902 to help develop the West. Today it provides water-based recreation at over 300 reservoirs in the 17 western states and has more than 90 million visits each year. WWW.USBR.GOV

DOI / FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE (FISH AND WILDLIFE) is the principal agency through which the Federal government carries out its responsibilities to conserve, protect, and enhance the nation's fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats. The agency manages the nearly 100-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 544 national wildlife refuges, thousands of wetlands and other special management areas. In 2003, more than 44,000 volunteers contributed in excess of 1.6 million hours – the equivalent to more than 800 full-time employees. WWW.FWS.GOV

DOI / MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE (MMS) manages the nation's oil, natural gas, and other mineral resources. The Minerals Management Service collects, accounts for, and disburses mineral revenues from Federal and American Indian lands—nearly \$128 billion since it was created in 1982. A portion of these revenues is dedicated to the acquisition and development of lands for public enjoyment. WWW.MMS.GOV

DOI / NATIONAL PARK SERVICE (NPS) is responsible for managing 83 million acres on 388 sites within the National Park System. The agency was established by Congress in 1916 to conserve scenery, natural and historic objects, and wildlife; and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such a manner that will leave them unimpaired for future generations. In 2003 122 thousand volunteers contributed 4.5 million hours of service valued at over \$73 million dollars. There are over 350 separate volunteer programs throughout the National Park Service. WWW.NPS.GOV

AMERICA'S FEDERALLY MANAGED LANDS & SITES:
MORE THAN ONE OUT OF EVERY THREE ACRES BELONGS TO ALL AMERICANS!



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Our Thanks to You



Camping World sincerely thanks all Take Pride in America® volunteers for their many hours donated to caring for our public lands. Every day, volunteer stewardship helps preserve and protect the beautiful outdoor spaces enjoyed by RV and camping enthusiasts across the nation. We salute all who volunteer their time and skills to help preserve our priceless American outdoor legacy.

1.866.214.6244 • campingworld.com • Supercenters Nationwide



AWARDS PROGRAM



Take Pride in America® recognizes outstanding volunteer efforts through a variety of awards.

NATIONAL AWARDS

Presented annually, national awards recognize volunteer projects and efforts in a variety of categories. The awards ceremony is in Washington, D.C. in September of each year.

The national awards are open to individuals, groups, and businesses whose volunteer efforts exemplify the mission of Take Pride.

The September 2005 national awards will be based upon

efforts between June 1, 2004, and May 31, 2005. Be sure to plan ahead so that you or a group you work with can be recognized. To apply or nominate an individual or group visit www.TakePride.gov/awards, or contact us at TakePride@ios.doi.gov.

GOVERNOR AND CONGRESSIONAL AWARDS

The governors of all 50 states plus Guam are participating in our Governors' Council. Many of the governors honor one or more volunteers in their state with a special Take Pride award, and these honorees are acknowledged at the national awards ceremony.

In addition to the governors, many senators and representatives also honor outstanding volunteer efforts in their states with special Take Pride awards. These award winners are also acknowledged at the national awards ceremony.

For current information about these awards, please visit www.TakePride.gov/awards, or contact us at TakePride@ios.doi.gov.

OTHER SPECIAL AWARDS

Take Pride works closely with its partners to present

awards for special categories of volunteer efforts. For example, Take Pride in America® Garden Awards are presented in cooperation with America the Beautiful Fund. For more information on how to participate, please visit America the Beautiful Fund's website at www.america-the-beautiful.org or call (202) 638-1649.

VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS AWARDS

In conjunction with the USA Freedom Corps and Points of Light Foundation, Take Pride also honors volunteers who have contributed a significant number of volunteer service hours. For example, volunteers with 3000 hours of service receive a Secretarial Award and those with 4000 hours of service receive a Presidential Award.

Take Pride volunteers can log their hours either through a specific bureau, such as the National Park Service VIP program, or via a service log available at www.TakePride.info, hosted by the Friends of Take Pride in America.

For more information about the President's Call to Service and the awards for hours of service available through the USA Freedom Corps program, visit www.freedomcorps.gov.